

20 OCT 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence  
VIA: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence  
FROM: William W. Wells  
Deputy Director for Operations  
SUBJECT: Recommended Procedures for Reporting  
Covert Action Programs to the Senate  
Select Committee on Intelligence

1. Following your briefing of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence (SSCI) on 29 July 1976 on current CA programs, I met with Bill Miller of the SSCI staff to work out procedures for regular reporting to the Committee on such activities. A Memorandum for the Record covering that discussion is attached. Subsequent meetings with the Committee staff have further refined these procedures, and have pointed up a few areas of potential difficulty of which I think you should be aware. I am recommending below, for your approval, suggested guidelines for keeping the SSCI informed on CA programs.

2. The SSCI staff has singled out three categories of reporting on CA programs beyond the "notification" provisions of the Hughes-Ryan Amendment: reports on the outcome of major CA programs, generally to be made shortly after their termination; semi-annual status reports on all CA programs; and supplementary details on the major projects mentioned in your 29 July briefing.

3. I recommend we adopt the following procedures for satisfying these SSCI requests for further information:

a. Termination/Evaluation Reports: You offer to provide an oral reporting on each major program, similar to and shortly following our written after-action reporting to OAG. (Tailored briefing materials

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b. Semi-Annual Status Reports: The SSCI understands that we will be reporting twice a year to the NSC and has keyed its request to this timetable. The staff understands that we will not be providing "drop copies" of such reports. I recommended that you orally brief the SSCI in late October. The briefing would follow our first report to the NSC and be based upon it, but with the subject matter limited to CA activities including general and statistical reporting on CA operations covered in the omnibus Presidential findings.

c. Follow-up Reporting on Current CA Projects: I recommend we offer oral follow-up reporting to include key substantive elements of our presentations to OAG on major programs. The Committee staff has specifically asked that, among other additional details, we include a statement as to the origin of each proposal (e.g., foreign government, Department of State, Ambassador, internal CIA, etc.) I recommend that we decline to provide such information on grounds that it is part of the internal Executive branch decision-making process. Otherwise, I see no particular difficulty in meeting requests for briefings which provide somewhat more detail than the notifications which we have made to the SSCI and other Committees in the past.

4. It seems preferable that either you or the-DDCI do these briefings. Either of you would be in the best position to discourage any tendency by the SSCI to move into Executive prerogatives or expand these sessions into quarterbacking of day-to-day Agency management or operational decisions.

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William W. Wells

Attachment

APPROVED:

*Am. Ben* 10-31-76  
Director of Central Intelligence

10/28/76  
Date

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